

Benson Bulletin

Benson, Vermont's Community Newsletter October 2008

BE AFRAID!

Yes, it's that time of year again when all the ghosts and goblins and just plain scary creatures in town are on the loose. If you think you're brave enough to "visit" with them, the Benson Fire Department will give you a ride through the swamp, over the abandoned railroad tracks and back to town past Beaver Meadow where strange sights have been reported recently and then there's Bigfoot But you'll probably be okay if you remember to keep your hands inside the wagon probablywell, maybe....

The Haunted Hayrides will be held on Friday and Saturday nights, October 10 and 11 from 7 – 10 pm. Stage Road will be one way, heading north, on those two evenings from 5:30 pm to midnight and Old North Lake Road will be closed from 5:30 pm to midnight to all traffic (if you have a site, see Bob St. Peter for a permit which will allow you on the road).

Tickets are still \$5/person and if you would like to reserve a seat on Wagon #1 for either Friday or Saturday night, please call Sue Janssen (537-3111). Those tickets are \$10.

This year there are also three FOOD EVENTS. More information inside this issue!

<u>Contact</u>	<u>number</u>	<u>for information about</u>
Dave Bartholomew:	537-3315	sites
Bob St. Peter:	537-3272	permits for Old North Lake Road
Sue Janssen:	537-3111	reservations for Wagon #1 and dinners

MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS MONTH

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION/EVENT</u>
October 6	Monday	7 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
October 7	Tuesday	6:30 pm	Community Hall	Benson History Project
October 8	Wednesday	7 pm	Town Office	Planning Commission
October 10	Friday	7-10pm	Town Office	Haunted Hayride
October 11	Saturday	9-2pm	Church	Yard and Bake Sale
October 11	Saturday	7-10pm	Town Office	Haunted Hayride
October 13	Monday	11:30 am	Community Hall	Senior Luncheon
October 14	Tuesday	7:30pm	BVS Library	School Board
October 15	Wednesday	6 pm	Library	Reading Group
October 15	Wednesday	6:30pm	BVS	Bingo
October 20	Monday	7 pm	Town Office	Selectboard
October 23	Thursday	10-11:30am	Benson Heights	Flu Shot Clinic
October 29	Wednesday	9-5pm	Town Office	Last Day for Checklist

LOOKING AHEAD

November 4	Tuesday	10-7pm	Community Hall	General Elections
November 12	Wednesday	6:30pm	BVS	Button Up Benson
November 15	Saturday	10-4pm	BVS	Craft Fair
November 19	Wednesday	6:30pm	BVS	Turkey Bingo

**Monthly Senior Luncheon
at the Benson Community Hall on October 13th**

Celebrate the Fall Foliage with a delicious meal and great company! Proposed menu: tossed salad, spaghetti and meatballs with parmesan cheese, spinach, garlic bread, apple dessert, milk, coffee, tea.

Suggested donation: \$3.50.

For reservations, please call Deanna Britton by Friday, October 3: 537-2971.

RAVNAH Holds Flu and Pneumonia Clinic in Benson

The Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association, with support from Omya and the Coalition for Adult Immunization in the Rutland Region, is hosting a flu and pneumonia vaccination clinic at Benson Heights on Thursday, October 23 between 10 and 11:30 a.m. The clinics are open to all adults age 18 years and over.

Individuals who have Medicare Part B need only bring their card to receive the flu and/or pneumonia vaccine. For all others, the cost for the flu immunization is \$33 and the cost for the pneumonia vaccine is \$53. Mastercard and Visa are accepted.

For more information, please call the Flu Hotline at the Rutland Area Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice at 770-1574 or visit www.ravnah.org.

BENSON MUSEUM

With schools back in session, the memories of all the schools in Benson come to mind. There were once eleven school districts in town!

There are only three school buildings remaining Temple School, Howard Hill School and Bump School are the only ones which have been saved and now these parts of our history are maintained as homes.

We have one table in the museum devoted to pictures of these important parts of our history. Included in our collection is a small slate board and a slate board eraser. If anyone has any special pictures of these schools, we would be pleased to have copies made. The following were the eleven school districts in Town: Aiken, Temple, Carter, Stony Point, Goodrich, Howard Hill, Stiles, South, Doane, Bangall, Center.

Hours: Wednesday from 1 – 3pm and by Appointment (537-2000)

BEFORE YOU TOSS THAT CARDBOARD....

Remember that only brown corrugated cardboard can go in the cardboard dumpster. Things like cereal boxes, pizza boxes, cake mix boxes go in the recyclables and any double waxed boxes must go in the garbage. Questions? Check with Wes BEFORE you toss!

CHURCH NEWS

The United Church of Benson's new Sunday School for pre-schoolers through sixth started on Sunday, September 14! Parents and children are welcome to Church at 10 a.m. and, after the Children's Message, the children go downstairs with teachers Meghan and Cassie, while the parents stay in worship. That will be the format for the first three Sundays of the month. Then, on the last Sunday of each month, we will be having a Family Sunday, where the children and parents can worship together. On that Sunday, the sermon will be aimed at all ages, and the children can take part in various parts of the service. Questions? Call Holly Noble at 446-3575.

Everyone is always welcome each Sunday at 10:00 am and, if you enjoy singing, Choir practice starts at 9:30 am!

CHURCH BAKE AND YARD SALE

Saturday, October 11

9 am to 2 pm

Come browse through an incredible selection of recently donated antiques and junkie! Needlepoint rugs and pictures, antique picture frames, books, music, china – you name it, we have it. And, to satisfy your hunger after you've been shopping, there will be a scrumptious selection of home made goodies available for sale too.

Benson History Project Gets Underway

If you are interested in helping to collect the history of Benson, as well as its folklore, please join us at the Community Hall on Tuesday, October 7 from 6:30 to 8 pm. If you would like a ride to the meeting or are unable to attend and have some input to share, please contact Karen Barber at 647-3155 or Deanna Britton at 537-2971.

SAVE THE DATE!

What: Button Up Benson
When: Wednesday, November 12 at 6:30 pm
Where: Benson Village School
Who: This is one of 100 workshops on home weatherization presented throughout the state, hosted by the Benson Energy Committee
See the November Benson Bulletin for more info.

WALK RUTLAND

Having trouble keeping your promise to yourself to get more exercise? Why not consider a team approach to help you maintain a healthy active lifestyle? Walk Rutland is a FREE team based walking program for residents of Rutland County. Contact Sandra Owens (775-0555 or Sandra@walkrutland.com) for more information or visit the website: www.walkrutland.com.

BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY



Open Wednesday 3 pm – 7 pm and Saturday 11 am – 2 pm



Reading Group

The group will meet on October 15 at 6:00 PM at the Library. We will be reading Rebecca by Daphne DuMaurier. The group is open to anyone interested.

Benson Village School News

Benson Village School has had a great start to a new school year!

The plans for the 8th grade students' class trip to Washington D.C. are beginning to come together. The class will be staying at the National 4H Center outside of Washington. The students will also be actively involved with developing the trip's itinerary over the next couple of months. For fundraising activities during the month of October, 8th grade students will be selling "Food-to-Eat-While-You-Wait-in-Line" at the haunted hayride on October 10 and 11 and running Bingo on October 15th at the School. The 5th graders went to Star Base in Rutland to learn about rocketry during the month of September. The School would like to thank Ed Peltier for the donation of his time and plants to beautify the front of the school. The BVS PTO is up and running! The PTO welcomes everyone to come and get involved. The group will be hosting a dinner at the Benson Haunted Hayride on Saturday, October 11th and also a ziti supper later in the Fall.

Questions? Call Principal Rick Beal: 537-2491

SECOND CONSTABLE

At their September 8th meeting, the Selectboard appointed Ken Jones as our new Second Constable. Ken will be assisting Daryl and, particularly while Daryl is obediently and cooperatively resting at home, following his doctors' orders, you may see Ken driving Daryl's truck. Two areas of concern are the speeders on East Road and the drivers who must be visually impaired and thus unable to see the STOP signs at the intersection of Lake and Stage Roads.

The appointment of Ken does NOT mean that, if there are any citizens of Benson interested pursuing and completing the training which will enable them to become a Second Constable, the Selectboard cannot appoint a second Second Constable. They can and they will. But Ken has come to us already trained, qualified and ready to roll. We welcome his help. If you need to contact Ken, please call his cell: 802-683-6127.

Need more information? Visit our Town's website: <http://www.benson-vt.com>

October Energy Tip:

There are many no cost or low cost steps you can take around your house to reduce energy consumption and your oil and gas bills. While do it yourself energy audits will not result in the same savings as professional energy audits, you can still save energy and money with a few simple steps. This month's Energy Tips focuses on identifying and reducing air leaks around doors and windows. Check for air leaks around exterior doors and windows. Specifically:

Doors: Does the door close tightly? Does the door rattle when closed? Can you see light around the door? Do you feel air coming in around the door when it is closed? Is the door steel or wood?

If your door does not close tightly, weatherstripping will tighten the door and reduce heat loss. If the door rattles, you may need to adjust the plate where the door latch closes into the door casing. If you can see light anywhere around the door, add weatherstripping. Steel doors have rigid foam insulation between the steel layers. Wood doors usually have no insulating value. If you have a wood door, caulk any cracks in the door. You might consider installing a storm door. If you already have a storm door, does it close tightly with no cracks or visible light?

Windows: Installing storm windows or plastic over windows and heavy drapes over windows can also help reduce air loss. If you install drapes, remember to open the drapes on the southern windows in the morning to let the sunshine (and free solar heat) in. Four types of windows are discussed below.

1. Double hung windows (These have two sashes that slide on vertical channels). Check the following: Are the windows locked to hold them in place? Are there any cracked panes of glass? Do the windows rattle? Is the glazing (putty like material) in place around the outer edge of each piece of glass? Do you feel air coming in around the windows, when closed?

Locks on windows are very important because they hold each sash in place so the the window is fully closed. Locks are inexpensive if windows don't have them. If the windows are rattling, they are not tight in their casing. Heat loss will occur. You can usually pry the window stop (strip of wood that holds the windows in place) off, and re-nail it in a little closer to the sashes to tighten the windows. If the glazing is bad, the glass is not fitting tightly in to the window sash. Glass shops, many lumber yards, and your local handyman can replace glass and re-glaze a window. If you want to do it yourself, replacing cracked glass and re-glazing windows is a little tricky, but not difficult to learn. The internet site www.doityourself.com/stry/reglazing provides a good set of instructions. Regardless who does the work, you will need to take the window out of the sash and repair it on a table or work bench, so don't wait until extreme cold weather.

2 & 3. Casement windows (These usually have a crank to open them) and sliding windows. Casement windows have a small set of gears at the bottom of the window (visible from the outside only). Clean dirt and dust out of the gears with a paint brush or vacuum. Clean out the channel that the window closes in to on the casing. Sliding windows slide in a groove on the bottom and top of the window. Make sure the grooves are cleaned out. Spraying a little WD 40 on the track and gears may help the windows close easier. Again, make sure that latches are closed. You should see the window pull in tighter to the casing when closing the latch.

4. Jalousie window (a window which consists of parallel glass, acrylic, or wooden louvers set in a frame. The louvers are locked together onto a track, so that they may be tilted open and shut in unison, to control airflow through the window. This type of window is not suited for cold weather climates. If you have any of them, about all you can do (if you can't afford to replace the windows) is to cover them with plastic or a storm window.

From the Benson Energy Committee

NEED A FREE WAY TO WARM UP?

Join our local Bone Builders Group from 9 – 10 am every Monday and Thursday morning in the Community Hall. The program is FREE and is a great LOCAL way to improve your balance, strengthen your bones, enjoy great company – and warm up!

Land Use Regulations Review

- The Planning Commission has decided to review the current Land Use Regulations and following the review may recommend changes to the Select Board. We expect the review will take several meetings. This work will begin with the October 8th meeting and we will be starting at the beginning of the regulations. Please attend this or future meetings or contact a member of the Planning Commission if you have suggestions for changes to the regulations.

ZONING TRAINEE NEEDED

If you would be interested in learning how to be our Zoning Administrator, please contact the Selectboard and/or speak with Daryl Burlett and/or Tom Bartholomew for more information.

The First Hundred Years From

The 1898-99 Auditors Annual Report

- This appears to be the first Town Report prepared for the voters prior to Town Meeting. The Warning is printed on the back of the report. Selectmen orders totaled \$1991.96.
- The expenses included a total of \$135.03 paid to 32 men for shoveling snow, \$300 to a bridge company and \$57.60 paid for damage to sheep by dogs and examining the sheep.
- The school directors spent \$2,532.04. School teachers earned about \$6.50 a week, cleaning a school before the start of school might make you \$2.00 and wood was three or four dollars a cord. The Road Commissioners went over budget by \$271.79 with total expenditures of \$1713.82. The Overseer of the Poor spent \$127.87. The Auditors “regret to say that we are confronted with an indebtedness, according to the above statement of \$1345.24” and ...”respectfully suggest that the road commissioner be instructed by a vote of the Town to reserve at least \$250 of highway fund to be used for winter work if necessary.”

AUDITOR STILL WANTED AND NEEDED

- We currently have 2 elected auditors, John Kubin and Bob Butman, and we would really like a third prior to budget time. Your responsibilities would include reviewing the budget figures and preparing the Town Report. If you would be willing to be appointed to fill out a term which will expire in March 2009, please contact the Selectboard.

HOW FRIGHTENING ARE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS?

If you would like to stage a site for the Haunted Hayride, please contact Dave Bartholomew: 536-3315.

ENHANCED HAUNTED HAYRIDE

We strongly urge you to come hungry to the hayride because there will be three possible ways you can satisfy your food cravings:

1. On both Friday and Saturday evenings, for the benefit of the Benson Village School 8th grade class, Chef James Pritchard will supervise the preparation of a vast array of "Food-to-Wait-in-Line-With" – snacks, soda, chowder, chili, hotdogs and much, much more! There's nothin' scary about his menu!
2. On Friday evening at 6pm in the Community Hall, for the benefit of the Fair Haven Union High School's Project Graduation, there will be a Chicken and Biscuit Dinner, catered by the Wheel Inn. Tickets are \$15 and must be purchased in advance. Call Sue Janssen (537-3111) to reserve your seat.
3. On Saturday evening at 6 pm in the Community Hall, for the benefit of the Benson Village School PTO, there will be a Pasta Dinner. Tickets are \$10 and must be purchased in advance. Call Sue Janssen (537-3111) to reserve your seat.

CALL FOR CRAFTERS

The Benson First Response is sponsoring their annual Craft Fair on Saturday, November 15 from 10 am – 4 pm at the Benson Village School. Tables will be available for \$20 if you reserve by November 10th. After November 10th, the fee will be \$25. If you need an electrical hook-up, there is an additional \$5 charge. To reserve a table, please call Coleen Hoard: 537-2583. Set up will be either Friday evening, November 14 from 5 – 7 pm or starting at 6 am on the morning of the 14th. Lunch will be available for purchase from 11 am to 1 pm.

BINGO IN BENSON

Our 8th Grade Class continues to provide us with a fun night out locally. October's Bingo will be held on Wednesday, October 15th at 6pm at the School. Please remember, if you are willing to donate items for prizes, you should contact Billi Jo Goad: 537-2723.

TURKEY BINGO IS COMING

Save the Date! Wednesday, November 19th

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

The Great Pumpkin and all the members of the Benson Volunteer Fire Department wish you have a happy, safe (and candy filled!) Halloween. The following are tips from the National Fire Protection Association to help keep your Halloween **scary** but safe.

- Purchase only costumes, wigs and props labeled flame-resistant or flame-retardant. When creating a costume, choose material that won't easily ignite if it comes in contact with heat or flame. Avoid billowing or long trailing features.
- Provide children with lightweight flashlights to carry for lighting or as part of their costume.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs, heaters, etc.
- Use flashlights or battery-operated candles when illuminating Jack-o-lanterns. Use extreme caution when decorating with candle lit Jack-O-Lanterns, and supervise children at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside Jack-O-Lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches and be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn including doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, ensuring nothing blocks escape routes.
- Use flashlights as alternatives to candles or torch lights when decorating walkways and yards. They are much safer for trick-or-treaters, whose costumes may brush against the lighting.
- Instruct children to stay away from open flames or other heat sources. Be sure children know how to **stop, drop and roll** in the event their clothing catches fire. (Stop immediately, drop to the ground, covering your face with your hands, and roll over and over to extinguish flames.) Cool the burn.
- Instruct children who are attending parties at others' homes to locate the exits and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

LIGHT SWITCH

Compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) are available now at the G & L General Store and the Benson Village Store. Bulbs are 99 cents each, and come in 60, 75 and 100 watt equivalents. Each household is limited to 6 bulbs. If you replace the 6 most used light bulbs in your home with CFLs, you could save up to \$250 on your energy bill over the lifetime of those 6 bulbs, about 6 or 7 years.

The savings start as soon as you change your light bulbs!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

For the **November 1st** newsletter, please submit your news and ads no later than October 25th. To submit your news, please either e-mail the information to bensonnews@shoreham.net or call Sue Janssen at 537-3111. Submit your ads to Shirley Vladyka: ShirleyV@shoreham.net



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

October 29th is the deadline for getting on the Checklist to vote in the General Election on November 4, 2008. Contact Jan Ladd, Town Clerk (537-2611) for information about the checklist and/or obtaining absentee ballots.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE!